

**NCUU**

**NATURE COAST**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

7633 N. Florida Ave (Hwy 41)

Citrus Springs, FL 34434

352-465-4225

# Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

Website: <http://www.ncuu.org>

**May, 2020**

## President's Message

As I sit here and contemplate my first words as President, I am in awe of the responsibility that I volunteered for. First and foremost, I want to thank our past president Rob DeRemer for such a great job. We are indebted to you.

This new fiscal year has started somewhat of a learning curve. We are using new technology to communicate with each other, not just at NCUU, but worldwide. We find ourselves in the midst of an invisible enemy that shows no signs of mercy. Everyday life has been turned upside down.

But in all of this we have seen some remarkable people step to the forefront against our enemy. Our hearts, prayers, vibes, or whatever you want to call it go out to the men and women on the frontlines. I am truly humbled to see these people run towards danger rather than from it.

I challenge each and every one of you to check up on one another. Just a simple phone call can do wonders for the soul.

I feel like I need to leave some sort of words of wisdom or inspiration quote. So, here it goes. Never let anyone treat you like a yellow starburst. You are a pink starburst!

Yours in service,

John

# SUNDAY SERVICE

**Sunday, April 12, 2020**

**Speaker – Rev. Carole Yorke**

[Carole's Talk on Youtube](#)

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

**Speaker – Linda Starkweather**

**Background:**

Linda Starkweather has been by turns a fine artist, graphic artist, stage designer and set builder, and actor for venues in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Rochester, and Naples, NY and north/central FL. She was a high school teacher of theater and film production and has been a guest artist opening up the world of Shakespeare to fifth graders in the Rochester area. She is a jeweler, builder, and a mixed media artist in semi-retirement. At this point on her journey she is turning her attention to the topic of death, both literal and figurative, and those surrounding themes of vitally full living and death with dignity, curiosity, and serenity.

**Topic:** *“Speaking of Death ...”*

In our culture of death phobia, what is it costing us to not speak of perhaps the greatest mystery? How might conversations about death enhance our lives while we’re here and allow us to enter that final day and beyond with calm, curiosity, and gratitude for a life well lived. And what role might Death Denial play in a world with so much violence and evil.

[Linda's Talk on Youtube](#)

**Sunday, April 26, 2020**

**Speaker – Lynne Westmoreland**

**Background:**

Lynne Westmoreland grew up as a Southern Baptist and is still in recovery. One of the gods that saved her in her original alcoholic family was music. She taught piano and was a professional pianist and accompanist for 30 years, mostly in the D.C. area. Her encore career is in humane education which examines the intersectionality of human rights, animal protection, environmental responsibility and stewardship, and how media and culture often collude to entice us to live contrary to our most deeply held values. Lynne completed training as an end of life doula last July and will be working toward certification in that field when she returns to NY in the spring.

**Topic:** *“God’s Pronoun Is They”*

God is so very much more than we can possibly fit into our modern preference for the binary. Many of us refer to God as He; many of us as She. But is either or both of those nearly enough? Many young people now express their rejection of binary labels by referring to themselves as other than he or she. If we as humans are beginning to realize that we cannot be contained by such limiting language, might not God be more vast than can be contained in any pronoun?

[Lynne's Talk on Youtube](#)

**Sunday, May 3, 2020**

**Speaker – “Rev. Faerie” Elaine Silver**

**Topic:** *“The Interdependent Web Through Song”*

Elaine Silver is a Spirited woman with a Musical Ministry that centers around New Thought Philosophy and a deep love and respect for Mother Earth and our own Interconnectedness. Elaine brings her audiences to places of Ancient Wisdom and Truth that resonate fully in the heart, mind and soul of those wise enough to listen. Treat yourself to the riches of her soul.

**Sunday, May 10, 2020**

**Speaker - Vanessa Fuller- Brown**

**Topic: "Earth Mother"**

The last time we saw Vanessa was New Year's Eve when she led a stirring and impressive ceremony, largely about sound. On May 10, in lieu of the drumming circle which is postponed, she has adapted a talk to Zoom. She will comment on the **earth mother** theme, appropriate as it is Mother's Day. Plus we are aware of the imbalance between man and nature which is causing us so much grief and having serious effects on the future. Vanessa is a muralist, art teacher, and drummer, some might even use the word *shaman*. A Mayan meditation might be included.

**Sunday, May 17, 2020**

**Speaker - Kurtland and Gaia Davies**

**Background:**

Kurtland and Gaia Davies have spent their separate counseling careers and then their 30 years together seeking answers to the big life questions posed in iconic songs, such as "What's it all about, Alfie?", "Is That All There Is?", "What's Love Got To Do With It?" and many others. We have come to believe that in every life situation there are lessons to be learned, new ideas to be explored, delights to be found. During this strange and different time in our lives, we are discovering that spending some time contemplating such questions can lead us to very new ways of looking at the situations in which we find ourselves.

**Topic: " What Lesson Have We Learned From the Great Confinement?"**

In a recent Zoom gathering of UU Soul Matters leaders, someone used the term "The Great Confinement." We liked the idea of using a name for this moment in time that might give it greater meaning, and perhaps a more positive slant. We remember that one meaning of confinement is the time to get ready to give birth. Now we can give birth to new understanding and new habits! We have found that while we have been less social, we have been more introspective. Sure, some days we have just been lazy, or even downhearted. But some days, new and different perspectives have bubbled up and seem to be moving us a little farther along that great, wandering, hilly road to enlightenment. We would like to share with you a few of the interesting ideas and questions that now intrigue us. Please come prepared to share yours.

**Sunday, May 24, 2020**

**Speaker - Dennis Wooldridge**

**Topic: "Are We Living in a Second Dark Age?"**

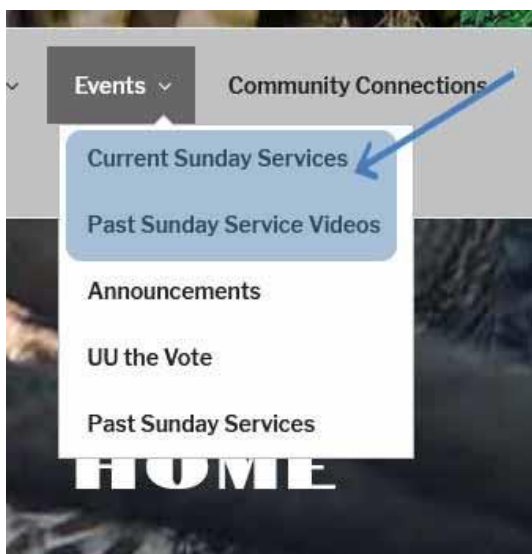
**Background:** Dennis E. Wooldridge is a native of Wood River, Illinois and later from Cape Girardeau, Missouri where he graduated from High School and Southeast Missouri State University (1983, BA in Communications). Dennis served in the US Navy for 4 years as a Journalist aboard the USS NIMITZ and USS CONYNGHAM. After leaving the service, he began a career in Radio and Television that spanned nearly 40 years, retiring in 2010 to begin his Communication and Coaching business NovelQuest Productions. Dennis has always had an interest in community service, lifelong learning, politics and public policy, social justice and civil rights. Dennis is an active member of Toastmasters International, serving in several leadership capacities including 2011-2012 District 84 Governor and as a member of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors. Dennis is currently serving as Vice President of the Volusia/Flagler Chapter of the ACLU. In his spare time, Dennis is an active "Facebooker", gamer and novelist.

**Topic: Are We Living In a Second Dark Age?** He intends to address the national trend to ignore science and embrace conspiracy theories and unsubstantiated claims by government officials. He will be using a section of text from James Michener's novel 'SPACE' to illuminate the message.

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**

**Speaker - Tom Hibberd**

**Topic: Memorial Day and War**



I have made an update to the NCUU website menu. The current Sunday Service listing will be the menu item: 'Current Sunday Services'; the past Sunday Service Youtube videos will be the menu item: 'Past Sunday Service Videos'. Both menu items will reside under 'Events' on the menu bar as illustrated in the blue highlighted area.

## NCUU Board of Directors

President	John Comer
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Jean McCauley
Directors	Amy Haiken, Tom Hibberd, Bree Hill, Shirley Leonard, Pam Ricker and Sheila Woods

## NCUU Committees

Audio/Visual	Gordon Hart
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Available
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Available
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Long Range Planning	Bob Madeiros
Membership	Holly Alexander
Music	Sally Smith-Adams
Newsletter	Amy Haiken
Nominating Committee	Judy Capone, Jeanne Wright and Peter Freeman
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
Publicity	Available
Property	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Religious Education	Available
Social Activities	Available
Social Justice	Don Wright
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	Rob DeRemer
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

### Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (Second Monday of the month) at 10:30 AM.

If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please send it to the clerk, Jean McCauley, about a week in advance.

## Message from The Vice President of NCUU Board of Directors

Thank you, Rob Deremer, for all your service to NCUU. You stepped up to take over the Presidency of the Board of Directors when your calm, but matter-of-fact leadership was needed. You helped keep us focused on the positive, all while going through the personal loss of your loving wife and companion, Barbara. Many thanks, Rob!

Connie Hart and the BoD 2019-2020



## Congratulations, Hailey!!



We are very happy to announce our youngest member, Hailey Ochsenein, is graduating from High School with Honors! She recently finished all the required work for her senior year of Virtual School, Marion County. Hailey, we congratulate you for all your hard work and wish you all the best in the future. We are all proud of you!



## In The News

Charlotte Langley is in rehab with a broken hip. Please send best wishes.

Crystal River Health and Rehab  
136 NE 12th Ave, Crystal River, FL 34429



## Zoom comes to NCUU!

As most of you are probably aware by now, our NCUU Sunday Services are available live via Zoom. If you don't have internet on any device, you can still hear the services via your smart phone. Please contact Don Wright for assistance at 352-283-6007.

These services available live on zoom and later on the website via youtube would not be possible without the long hours of preparation of two of our technically talented members. Please be sure to thank **Don Wright and Amy Haiken** for their long hours, patience and expertise in accomplishing this for us!

Connie Hart



## May Birthdays



If your birthday is not included, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor:

ahaiken@yahoo.com. Birthdays will be celebrated the first sunday of each month acknowledging all birthdays.

Carole Goodwin	Matthew Ciszewski
Ellen Saunders	John Comer
Julie MacDonald	Stan Brumaghim
Karen Fournier	



## Earth Day

Lynne Westmoreland has shared a link to an Earth Day Website. We encourage everyone to visit: <https://landing.pachamama.org/earth-day>.

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## Social Justice Committee

This [link](#) is an editorial on the World Health Organization is scheduled to appear in tomorrow's issue of Science. The underlying message is that effective solutions to global crises like pandemics and climate change require global collaboration. It is imperative that we all do what we can, even a tiny bit, to convince our leaders of this.

Don Wright

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## Loving Energy by Pam Reader

Pam Reader, one of our newest members, is a nurse, counselor and hypnotherapist. Pam has created a hypnotherapy session that she would like to share with all of our fellowship, especially with us all going through this stressful time with Coronavirus. It is highly recommended.

Please click on this [link](#) to her Youtube video.

Thanks Pam!

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## Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That The Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **May 23 2020**. **Please Adhere To This Deadline, Otherwise The Newsletter And Website Won't Be Updated On-Time**. Send To: Ahaiken@Yahoo.Com And Put 'For Newsletter' In The Subject Line.

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## Send Sunday Morning Announcements To:

[Contactncuu@Gmail.Com](mailto:Contactncuu@Gmail.Com) With For Announcements In The Subject Line. Deadline Is The Friday Before Sunday Service.

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**Wireless amplifying headphones are now available at the rear of the sanctuary. See Gordon Hart for assistance on Sundays.**

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## Please Join Us On A Committee. Help Needed!

NCUU Needs Your **Help And Assistance**, Especially If You Don't Presently Serve On Any Committees. **Every Little Bit Helps, So...**

Please Talk To A Bod Member Of Committee Chairperson About Your Interests In Joining In The Work Of Our Congregation.

<https://landing.pachamama.org/earth-day>.

## Social Service Help Line

Wellcare, A Health Insurance Company, Has Set Up A Help Line For Social Services. If You Need Assistance, Call 1-866-775-2192.

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## Let's Connect!

During this time of uncertainty, let's stay connected to each other. Please take a moment to call, text or email a member or two each day. Calls are especially nice for those who don't have email, are ailing or are grieving. Just check the newly revised Directory, print or save it and use it to help lift the spirit of our members.

Thank you!  
Connie



Unitarian Universalists have been part of every movement in US history, and we are ready to show up for the 2020 election like never before. Our forebears and ancestors gave us the blueprints for seeking justice in the world and speaking truth to power.

Press the control key and click on the image to view the following video.

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### Social Activities Committee

The **Social Activities Committee** is in need of volunteers to help plan potlucks and other fun events, bring goodies for after services and take turns cleaning up the kitchen after coffee and discussion. Please make sure you thank Matthew C and Pam R as well as several others for their services. Contact Pam or Matthew if you can help in any way even 1 Sunday a month. Thank you!



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### Grounds & Gardens Day

The **First Friday of every month** is **Grounds & Gardens Day** at NCUU.

Do you like to work outside in the yard and garden? Whether weeding, trimming, planting, raking, the NCUU Yard and Garden Crew always needs help. Please come Friday morning.

Bree Hill and others are usually there by sun up. (*The rest of us usually are not.*) We're normally done by 10:30 - 11:00.

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## New Members



### **Pamela and David Reader**

We moved to Florida from Texas in October 2019. We love the area, people and activities and hope to get back to our normal abnormalities soon. David is a 30 year Navy veteran who served as COB on submarines. For the past 10 years we ran a small fish camp in Texas. Pam is an Air Force nurse veteran and worked as a hospice nurse/counselor/hypnotherapist. She co-authored a book called "The Pipe and the Pen" and produced a hypnotherapy CD called "Loving Energy". We enjoy the outdoors and heat and humidity! Lol We live on an island on the Homosassa River and are members of the Homosassa River Alliance, Homosassa Civic Club, Nature Coast Dragonboat Club, and Citrus County Democrat Club and of course recently joined Nature Coast UU! Stay safe and loving healing energies to all!



### **Charrington "Charlie" Morell, Marilyn Butler, and Hal Butler**

Charlie, pictured on left, is the daughter of Marilyn and Hal Butler.

Charlie an RN, is presently very busy, studying for her Masters degree and working full time remotely as Division Manager for West Florida Clinical Document Improvement. She has resided in Florida since 2000, presently lives in Inverness and enjoys having several cats and dogs. She also loves gardening and birdwatching. Working with stained glass is her art outlet. According to her mom, she creates beautiful pieces.

Marilyn and Hal resided in Connecticut for many years before moving "out the door in '94" to Florida. Marilyn taught Foreign Languages (Spanish and French) at a high school in Brookfield. Her hobbies now include bridge, when not social distancing, and reading on her Kindle. She likes playing the piano and used to enjoy play tennis.

Hal also worked in education as a Social Studies teacher in Bridgeport, CT. He loves history, is a Biblical scholar and an expert on Shakespeare. Hal is devoted to his Australian Shepherd rescue, Beau. The Butlers have 2 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. Their residence now is located in Beverly Hills, FL.

## Special Announcement - UUA

Hello! My name is Davis Senseman and I am honored to be supporting the important work of UU the Vote by providing legal counsel regarding how congregations can engage in bold, effective electoral work fully within your rights and IRS status as 501c3 religious organizations.

I'm collaborating with the #UUTheVote team to provide comprehensive guidance around the issue throughout the campaign.

Here are four key questions that we've already heard from several congregational leaders:

**Question 1:** Can we openly preach, teach, or act about being opposed to war, or supporting the Green New Deal? Have these become partisan issues?

**Response:** YES YOU CAN. Unless you are persuading people to vote for/against a specific candidate, you are absolutely allowed to take a definitive stance on issues, including issues regarding actions of the current administration. Opposition to war, combating climate change, resisting oppression in all forms—these are foundational UU beliefs. They can and should be at the center of sermons and congregational work.

**Question 2:** Can we partner with an organization if they are not a 501(c)3?

**Response:** YES YOU CAN. Congregations can partner with c(4) organizations or unions to carry out charitable, nonpartisan activities consistent with the church's 501(c)3 status and mission. For UU congregations, that includes activities advocating for foundational UU beliefs.

**Question 3:** Can Individuals from the congregation (especially the minister) publicly endorse candidates?

**Response:** YES THEY CAN. So long as the individual is not speaking at an official church function, in an official church publication, or otherwise using the church's assets, and does not claim to speak as a representative of the church, they are free to endorse and speak publicly on behalf of any candidate.

**Question 4:** Can we ever host partisan activities in the congregation?

**Response:** YES YOU CAN, as long as the event is consistent with pre-existing space use policies (i.e. - you don't charge for space use and aren't charging the folks holding the partisan event, or you only allow groups invited by a member to use the building). Furthermore, your policies can include a requirement that any group using the space hold similar values to UU principles to avoid having to host groups whose partisan activities are contrary to UU beliefs.

The UU the Vote team is here for your questions and looks forward to helping all UU congregations engage in prophetic, nonpartisan work in support of our values in 2020. Join us at our January 12 launch!

Best,

Davis Senseman, Esq.